



## ***Information About***

# **The Availability of Assistive Technology in Schools**

## **What Is Assistive Technology?**

Assistive Technology can be either a device or a service that helps students with disabilities receive a free appropriate public education.

## **What Is An Assistive Technology Device?**

It is any item, whether bought at a store or custom-made, that is used to increase, maintain, or improve the functional capabilities of a student with a disability.

## **What Is An Assistive Technology Service?**

It is any service that helps a student select and use an Assistive Technology device. Examples can include evaluation of the student with the device, obtaining a device, or training about the device for the student and the student's family.

## **What Does the Law Require?**

The law requires that each student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) Team consider whether it is appropriate for a student to have Assistive Technology devices and/or services. If the IEP Team decides that it is appropriate for a student to have an Assistive Technology device and/or service, then the school district must pay for that device and/or service.

## **Does the IEP Need to Include the Assistive Technology Device and/or Service?**

Yes. The device must be described in detail in the student's IEP. The services, such as an evaluation of the student with the device, training for the student and family on the device, or modification of the device, must also be listed in the student's IEP. Also, the student's use of the device should be included within the goals and objectives of the student's IEP.

## **Can the Student Take the Device Home?**

If the student's IEP calls for the student to use the device for homework or classroom assignments in order for the student to receive a free appropriate public education, then the student is allowed to take the device home. However, the device will still be owned by the school district and is school property.

## **Note for Students with a Section 504 Plan**

A student with a disability who has a Section 504 Plan may receive needed accommodations and modifications if documented on their Plan.

## **How Can I Find Out More About the Availability of Assistive Technology in Schools?**

You can call VOPA at our toll-free number (800) 552-3962 for more information.

### **Virginia Office for Protection and Advocacy Contact Information**

**1910 Byrd Avenue, Suite 5  
Richmond, Virginia 23230  
800-552-3962 (Toll-Free in Virginia)  
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Web: [www.vopa.state.va.us](http://www.vopa.state.va.us)**

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Applicants for service or employment shall be afforded equal opportunity without regard to race, color, religion, political affiliation, national origin, disability, marital status, gender, or age.

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